

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 ACDA-07

AID-05 SCA-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NEA-10 /109 W

-----041614Z 072983 /46

R 031315Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5947

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

/AMEMBASSY MBABANE 922

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SPOP, SHUM MZ PO

SUBJECT: MAY 30 NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ON EXPELLEES FROM MOZAMBIQUE

1. ARTICLE WRITTEN BY MICHAEL HUDSON AND HELEN GIBSON APPEARING MAY 30 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK ON EXPELLEES FROM MOZAMBIQUE CONTAINS SEVERAL INACCURATE STATEMENTS, AND GIVES READER IMPRESSION THAT THOUSANDS OF "STATELESS" PERSONS ARE FLEEING MOZAMBIQUE UNDER THREAT OF INTERNMENT IN FORCED LABOR CAMPS AND TORTURE.

(A) ARTICLE STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT EXODUS STEMS FROM GPRM "DECISION TO EXPELL ALL CITIZENS WHO HAD OBTAINED PORTUGUESE PASSPORT AT THE TIME MOZAMBIQUE BECAME IN-

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DEPENDENT." ACTUALLY, GPRM EXPULSION DECREE APPLIES ONLY TO PERSONS ENTITLED TO DUAL NATIONALITY WHO EITHER HAD RENOUNCED MOZAMBICAN NATIONALITY AFTER THE ALLOTTED TIME OF NINETY DAYS FOLLOWING DEPENDENCE, OR WHO FAILED TO COMPLETE GPRM RENUNCIATION FORMALITIES WHILE MAINTAINING A FOREIGN PASSPORT

(B) ARTICLE ALSO ALLEGES THAT GPRM DECIDED TO RID ITSELF OF A CHALLENGE TO ITS AUTHORITY BY SIMPLY MAKING PASSPORT

POSSESSION GROUND FOR EXPULSION. AGAIN, STATEMENT IS MIS-
LEADING. DUAL NATIONALS WHO RENOUNCED MOZAMBICAN CITIZEN-
SHIP WITHIN THE 90 DAY PERIOD FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE, OR
WHO OTHERWISE MET THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER MOZAMBICAN LAW,
HAVE NOT BEEN EXPELLED. FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN MOZAMBIQUE WHO
HAVE NO CLAIM TO MOZAMBICAN CITIZENSHIP AND WHO CARRY A FOREIGN
PASSPORT HAVE NOT BEEN EXPELLED.

(C) EMBASSY DOES NOT QUESTION EXPELLEES' STATEMENTS IN
ARTICLE THAT THEY HAD BEEN SENT TO FORCED LABOR CAMPS OR
TORTURED. HOWEVER, ALL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US INDICATES
THAT SUCH TREATMENT OCCURS ONLY IN ISOLATED CASES, AND IS
NOT A WIDESPREAD PRACTICE, AS ARTICLE IMPLIES. NON-
COMPLIANCE WITH DECREE DOES CARRY PENALTY OF SIX MONTHS IN
JAIL, UNLESS EXELLEEE PAYS A FINE AND LEAVES, OR IS IN
PROCESS OF APPEALING HIS CASE, BUT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO
KNOW IF PENALTY PROVISIONS OF DECREE WILL BE ENFORCED.

(D) FINALLY, ARTICLE STATES THAT NEW SURGE OF "RE-
TORNADOS" MAY REACH 40,000. THIS NUMBER IS SUBSTANTIALLY
IN EXCESS OF PORTUGUESE CONSULATE ESTIMATES OF 20,000
PORTUGUESE PASSPORT HOLDERS REMAINING IN MOZAMBIQUE.
FURTHER, NOT ALL OF THE 20,000 ARE BEING EXPELLED, AND
GPRM SEEMS TO BE BACKING OFF FROM STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF
DECREE, AS EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (MAPUTO 704, NOTAL).

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH TO DEFEND GPRM EX-
PULSION DECISION, NOR THE ARBITRARY IMPLEMENTATION OF
DECREE AND SEIZURE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY THAT ACCOMPANIES
EXPULSION. HARDSHIPS ARE CERTAINLY EXPERIENCED BY THOSE
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DECREE. HOWEVER, IMPRESSION LEFT BY
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ARTICLE THAT MOST PORTUGUESE PASSPORT HOLDERS ARE BEING
EXPELLED, OR THAT TORTURE OR INCARCERATION IN FORCE-
LABOR CAMSP IS WIDESPREAD, IS MISLEADING.
DE PREE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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